



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Ellipsaria lineolata* Butterfly

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**Identification:** Triangular shape, compressed; shell is thick and smooth, yellowish brown in color, rays are dark brown and broken; mother-of-pearl is white and iridescent.

**Measurements:** 4 inches in length.

**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized subspecies.

**Status:** Global rank is **G4** and state rank is **S1**.

**Habitat:** Found in gravel or sand of large rivers.

**Range:** Mississippi river interior basin drainages.

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**Food habits\*:** Mussels are continually pumping water through their siphon. Their diet is composed of the various microscopic plants and animals from the water and organic matter from stream bottoms that they filter from this water.

**Reproduction:** Sexes are separate. Host species for glochidia stage are unknown at this time.

**Reason for decline\*:** Loss of habitat as a result of siltation, impoundment, and the addition of pollutants to streams and rivers may contribute to the decline of this species.

**Interesting facts:** This is the only species of the genus *Ellipsaria* that occurs in Louisiana.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** 1992

**References**

Cummings, K.S., and C.A. Mayer. 1992. Field guide to freshwater mussels of the Midwest. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 5.

Vidrine, M.F. 1993. The historical distributions of freshwater mussels in Louisiana. Gail Q. Vidrine Collectables, Eunice, Louisiana.